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Trawler in trouble PAGE 9



Farewell Heather PAGE 11

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Look locally

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STORY PAGE 5

Golf plan nod

Approval has now been granted and the application approved to develop the area previously known as the Rainbow Shores Golf Course on Wyvern Road.

The development has caused major opposition from residents, particularly from Rainbow Shores who are opposed to high density housing, tree and bush clearing, and the destruction of animal habitats.

In response to the subdivision application, 43 objections were received by council.

STORY PAGE 9



Helen Dean and Daryl Levy give an emotional farewell on their last day as owners of the Silky Oak Tea Gardens.

Farewell to Silky Oaks

A huge gathering of support formed at the Silky Oaks Tea Garden to farewell owners Daryl Levy and Helen Dean after 24 years of good times at the iconic Kia Ora venue.

CHECK OUT THE 40 PLUS FACES CAPTURED ON SUNDAY ON PAGES 10 AND 15

Tackling jet skis

By Lee McCarthy

Fifty three complaints were lodged at a in Rainbow Beach last week to find a solution to the Double Island Point lagoon conflict by people who use the area upset by jet skis speeding in the lagoon and putting people and other watercraft in danger.

The meeting followed requests for feedback

by the MSQ to establish a working solution and the proposal suggested is to reduce the speed in the lagoon to six knots with buoys and signage marking the speed limits.

While the meeting was respectful, there was obvious frustration from some who could not understand why the watercraft could not be banned from the lagoon area with so much other coastline to ride their craft.

Area Manager Gladstone South, Leon McKenzie stated their one major area of concern was for people's safety.

"Our desire is to allow everyone to make use of the waterways with jet ski's able to use the area if they stick to six knots, along with small sail boats, paddleboards all in what is a 'very desirable location,' he said.

"With up to 6000 people using the area on

a single weekend, 95 per cent of the people respect everyone else, don't speed and don't do silly things to endanger people and create nuisance but the other five per cent make headlines.

"We don't want to stop it; we want to control it. It's a lot of people in a small area and most are doing the right thing."

STORY PAGES 3-4

TRAVIS COLLINS, JAMES BLUNDELL, THE VIPER CREEK BAND, THE BUCKLEYS, LINC PHELPS MUSIC, MANDY COLLINS & DEE JAYE BUX

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After the extreme weather conditions on the Cooloola Coast over the Christmas Holidays, it is good to have some calm and sunshine.

The beach has felt the brunt of the winds with rocks still exposed at Mudlo and it is best to leave it for experienced, as it requires skill to time the waves and traverse the rocks.

Inskip Point will take some time to build sand back up and there are reports of the 'Natone' showing itself again which it does after strong winds.

The region is quiet again with tourists leaving to return to their lives and the lull will remain until the next school holidays and the madness of Easter.

Cooloola Coastcare - Turtle Care are urging drivers not to drive on the dunes and to time their trips on low tide to protect the turtle nests which they are working hard to save.

It's another natural tourism arm for the region and one which should be embraced.

A meeting has been held between concerned Double Island Point users and representatives of Maritime Safety Queensland, National Parks and Police regarding jet ski usage in the lagoon. Read the full wrap up inside and thanks to all who made time to come to the meeting.

The future of the Rainbow Shores Golf Course development called Wyvern Road Development is in this issue so keep an eye on the progress providing more housing for the region. Whether you support the development or not, by increasing the permanent population we will keep our butchers, doctors, supermarkets and services and have the money for more infrastructure and sporting facilities.

Have a fabulous fortnight!

- Lee McCarthy



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New 40k signs along the beach at Double Island Point are a positive step towards better beach behaviour.



Another casualty of the king tides and strong winds was the middle rock permit sign.

Signs... everywhere there are signs!

By Lee McCarthy

Signs are springing up everywhere and although some might argue it doesn't work with the natural beauty of the region, with the increased number of drivers on the Cooloola Coast it is obvious some don't know the speed limits.

Erected for safety, the Double Island Point and Mudlo Rock 40 mph signs are to advise drivers that those areas are also used by walkers and families regularly and to drop your speed.

While the beach is classified as a highway and all road rules apply, it is also a shared area and its important to keep an eye out for children.

The signage at Middle Rock advising drivers that a permit is required south of the sign has been left worse for wear after recent weather events including a cyclone, king tides, a Tsunami and high speed winds.

Drive to the conditions and respect other drivers and those walking and playing on the beach.



The new 40 kpm signage approaching Mudlo Rocks designed to slow down traffic as it approaches the main beach at Rainbow.

Putting brakes on jet skis

From page 3

Sergeant Michael Bazzo, repeated Police-link was the place to report all matters as it will be on record and acted on.

According to the MSQ presentation, the area in question is a safe haven for boaties travelling along the coast as it has 'lee' from the predominate south east winds, the water is crystal clear and has the coral atoll colours during the day.

As Covid has caused the local population not to be able to travel, the area has become well known and is used heavily every day the weather suits.

The use of the area has brought with it the use of vessels and Personal Water Craft (PWC) within the lagoon area.

"The use is monitored by the Water Police (WP) Urangan and Parks Urangan, and both have stated the area is 'an accident waiting to happen' such is the heavy used of the area with powered craft.

"There are no specific management controls in place to separate potentially conflicting uses such as anchored/moored vessels, jet ski operators and water-ski activities other than the 30m (vessel) and 60m (PWC) rules currently in place. "

There is a need to implement additional site controls to ensure safety.

The proposal by Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) is to establish a six-knot speed limit, beginning 300 meters south of the Leisha Track, encompassing the entire length of Double Island Point Beach north to the south-west in an imaginary line to a position to the end of the sand spit, then east to 300 meters south of the Leish Track. They have determined this will enhance safety for all users of the lagoon at Double Island Point.

MSQ claim one of the enforcement issues is the measuring of distance for the purpose of enforcement as it is subjective and 30 metres is judged differently by all persons.



Concerned residents attended a meeting to have their say on the lagoon at Double Island Point with members of Maritime Safety Queensland and other stakeholders

Unless the enforcement agency can observe a blatant distance violation, the current water way rules available are not able to be properly enforced.

"A six-knot zone for the Double Island Point Lagoon as proposed will assist enforcement officers as speed is easier to identify than distance off."

Speakers said this proposal will be success if the Cooloola Coast community and public in general are aware of, and understand the need for, site-specific management measures surround the Double Island Point Lagoon.

While MSQ believe ignorance will be responsible for issues within the early stages of implementation of the six-knot zone, they believe this will be minimal.

"Initially, there will be breaches and enforcement action may be taken which may be a burden over the short term, however, this will ease off and become self-managed over time."

Signage on the beach as well as 6 knot buoy markets will be used to alert the public. Report anyone not respecting the area to www.police.qld.gov.au/policelink-reporting.



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Look for local seafood

By Lee McCarthy

The Queensland commercial fishing industry is asking who would have thought that food rationing would ever be in our future or that supermarkets would ever be devoid of staples that have always been a given for generations?

Industry sources said they were eagerly looking forward to the community returning to “normal” with shelves stocked and business prospering.

“However, the current shortages being experienced across the food supply chain prompts deeper concerns that many Queensland consumers will, in the future, see continued shortages in the supply of Queensland wild caught seafood, not from illness but as a direct result of Queensland Government Policy.

“The seafood industry is extremely passionate about food security. We take this very seriously and consider our seafood producing boats and businesses as playing a key role in providing an accessible renewable high protein resource – fish from the sea.”

They said for decades fishermen have raised the importance of food security at Gov-



The Queensland Commercial Fishing Industry is urging you to shop local for seafood. Local Tin Can Bay Trawler owned by Scott Reibel.

ernment level, but it certainly appears that this is not a priority, when the Queensland Government’s Sustainable Fisheries reform is in fact

reducing the availability of local seafood, a community resource for local seafood lovers to buy and enjoy.

The logistics of long-distance food haulage highlights the absolute essential role that reliable locally based food producers play in the health and wellbeing of their community.

“In times of crisis, and in good times, the community can rely on their local regional food producers, our commercial fishermen and farmers, to keep working and providing access to fresh food.”

“We can assure you we are doing just that every day of every year. There is nothing more we love to do, than being on the ocean and bringing home fresh healthy seafood to feed the community. It is our job!”

They said contrary to the myth that the best seafood is being exported, the majority of the catch is destined for the Australian domestic market and has been for years.

“Our commercial fishermen live and work in Queensland waters and unload their catches at a regional wharf or boat ramp somewhere along the coast from the NSW border to Karumba in the Gulf of Carpentaria.”

“There are many options for consumers to secure some of this fine quality seasonal seafood.

“Since Covid-19 hit our shores, fishermen too have adapted their distribution and seafood lovers are welcome to wharves to shop direct from the fisherman on the boat, at community markets, roadside vendors along with the more traditional retailers and eateries.

“On behalf of our fishing families, we are asking you to shop local, from a local producer in your region and encourage you to include some of the healthy, sustainable wild Queensland Catch on your regular shopping list throughout the year.

“Our pledge to you is to continue to fish and keep you informed on availability. Thank you for choosing local caught seafood and supporting a Queensland small business.”

Each fishery and region offer a unique seafood experience. For more information where to source Queensland seafood, check out the seafood locator (<https://qisia.com.au/seafoodlocator/>) or sign up to the email list qld-catch@qisia.com.au.

Landcare says get your toad hunting skills ready

By Lee McCarthy

The Great Cane Toad Bust is a national event held from Monday 24 January to Sunday 30 January 2022 to encourage community cane toad control activities.

Toad busting is a highly effective form of cane toad control and can have a big impact on local populations.

According to Watertum and the Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery Project, a mere

102 cane toads were brought to Queensland in 1935 but over the last 86 years cane toads have bred, and spread, and now their numbers exceed two billion.

Each female cane toad can produce up to 70,000 babies a year and toad busting activities are designed to remove fertile adults from the environment before they have an opportunity to breed.

“We need Australians to step up and work

together to impact cane toads on a national scale. The more people who get involved, the greater our impact will be.”

Before you start, you must be confident it is a cane toad and not a native frog and organisers urge anyone wishing to participate to read the guide and if you are unsure, please leave it alone.

During the last week of January, head out onto your property or into your local area

to collect cane toads with your families and friends.

This is a Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery Project. The event is funded by the Australian Government’s Bushfire Recovery Program for Wildlife and their habitat.

Head to www.watertum.org/greatcaneadabust for event information, help with native frog Vs cane toad ID, information on humane euthanasia and more.



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Adult turtle snapped

By Lee McCarthy

This stunning photograph of an adult turtle showing the beautiful clean waters of Tin Can Bay was photographed by Dek Wilson last week.

A keen photographer, but only as a hobby, Dek lives in Tin Can Bay with his family, and is fascinated by the amount of marine life in the area.

“I have always been curious about the amount of stingrays here and everyone says I’m mad to wade out, but I have never seen any sharks around Tin Can,” he explained.

“I normally go out on the flats, photographing and have been taking pics of the stingrays. I have seen five species so far including two Eagle Rays which are uncommon.

“I enjoy taking photos and I like the wildlife and it’s so nice to see how much is out there. I go out at three or four in the morning as the suns rises.”

This turtle he found just off ‘Kindy Beach’ a week ago in a foot of water as the high tide was coming in.

“It was just resting there. I’ve seen a couple there and that one was just cruising along nice and steady.

“I have only been using a go pro and my mobile phone at the moment but I am in the market for a good camera - the turtle photo was on the go pro.”

Dek is on Instagram as Dek Wilson and is wanting to know someone who could chronicle or let him know more about the marine life he is seeing.

He also took the starfish photo in this issue at Inskip Point.



This remarkable photo by Dek Wilson of an adult turtle at Tin Can Bay.

Stay off the dunes to protect turtle nests

By Lee McCarthy

Volunteers continue their work to help the turtle population thrive in the Cooloola Coast saving eggs and relocating nests during recent high tides and strong winds.

Members of Cooloola Coastcare - Turtle Care recently relocated a clutch of 99 Loggerhead Turtle eggs after a mother had nested on the very fragile dune along the Inskip beach stretch.

“The nest was in a vulnerable spot able to be impacted by high tides, bad weather and increased 4WD traffic,” Jan Waters said.

“Relocating the eggs is a delicate operation carried out by our authorised turtle carers.

“The eggs are carefully removed and replaced in the new nest in the same order they were laid and care is taken to create the new nest nearly identical to the original.”

The model in the photo shows a cross section of a Green turtle nest - the egg chamber and emerging hatchlings.

“We try not to shake, spin, roll or rotate the egg. The turtle egg has a membrane that



Cooloola Coastcare - Turtle Care volunteers relocating 99 eggs to help them have a better chance at life.

the developing embryo attaches to the egg wall during growth.

“If the egg spins, it can detach from the wall and prevent the embryo from developing.”

“We put them back in the same order so as not to interfere with the rate of development.”

Jan said they wanted to stress again to anyone driving on the beach not to drive on the dunes.”

For any sightings or to volunteer please contact Joan on 0407 810 510 or Jan on 0429 481 490 from Cooloola Coast Care - Turtle Care.



Cooloola Coastcare - Turtle Care replica of a turtle nest



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Bay upgrade plan looms

By Arthur Gorrie

Coolooloa Coast drivers may know by April what the government plans to do about upgrading the increasingly busy and crash-prone intersection of Tin Can Bay and Bayside Roads at Coolooloa Cove.

Transport Minister Mark Bailey says planning is currently underway for a “potential upgrade.”

“This planning will consider all upgrade options, including a roundabout or traffic signals to control movements through the intersection,” Mr Bailey said.

“Planning is currently programmed to be completed by April 2022,” he said.

But the intersection will not be transformed overnight.

The Minister said the project currently had “no construction timeframes”

Funding would need to be “considered against competing statewide priorities.”

He said the government was “delivering its sixth record transport and roads infrastructure program in a row.”

He said the government would spend \$27.5 billion in the next four years, “supporting an estimated 24,000 direct jobs over the life of the program.”

“Of this, \$1.495 billion is committed across (the TMR’s) Wide Bay Burnett District, (supporting) 1380 direct jobs,” he said.



An upgrade is on the way for the increasingly busy intersection of Tin Can Bay and Bayside Roads at Coolooloa Cove.

Queensland’s pandemic response had made it the place to be and led to a population boom requiring “significant road upgrades” which were being delivered “as part of Queensland’s Covid-19 Economic Recovery Plan.”

“These upgrades provide immediate economic benefits, support more jobs and deliver ongoing benefits of vital infrastructure,” he said.

The minister was responding to a parlia-

mentary Question on Notice from Gympie MP Tony Perrett who had sought a pledge on funding and an anticipated completion date for a roundabout, after “increasing reports of accidents.”

Sleepy Lagoon Motel expands to meet demand

By Lee McCarthy

When Jenny and Mike Gray used to visit their friends in Tin Can Bay, they would spend some of that time looking for a business to run in the area.

On the way home one trip they saw the Sleepy Lagoon Motel lease advertised for sale and straight away knew this was it.

Having no experience in actual accommodation before but owning businesses together, they knew the fundamentals and knew although it would be hard work, they were happy to have a go so they could live in paradise.

The motel lease is a separate business to the Sleepy Lagoon Hotel, and Jenny and Mike have spent the past three years improving the gardens, introducing outdoor seating areas and refurbishing the rooms for their guests.

There are 24 studio/cabins, plus a three-bedroom house and they have just opened two more units to offer families further choice.

The two and three-bedroom brand new beautifully finished units are at the back of the existing land and have been styled with flair and class by Jenny.

The units would suit two couples or a family and have everything you need for the overnight self-contained stay.

Jenny said the cabins have a high occu-



Jenny Gray in the sleep kitchen in the new three bedroom unit recently added to the overnight options at the Sleepy Lagoon Motel at Tin Can Bay.

pancy rate and they doubled sales in a short time after taking over due to the increase in interest in the Bay and just having fresh rooms and great staff.

“We love Tin Can Bay and get to see our

friends all the time. We have met lots of people and we love that it is quiet and has good weather.”

While Mike laments the fact that he used to enjoy the water a lot more when he was



Jenny Gray in the recently completed two bedroom unit available for rent at the Sleepy Lagoon Motel.

only here on holidays, it is obvious they enjoy the work and have also bought their own home and when they retire they have no intention of leaving.

“We have lots of regulars from the Defence base and have a mix of Queen rooms, Queen and single and Queen and two single configurations.”

Pop in and say hello to Mike and Jenny and book ahead as the holiday season means a full house.

The Sleepy Lagoon Motel is at 2 Groper Street, Tin Can Bay and you can call them on 07 5488 0653 or email jenandmikegray@sleepylagoonmotel.com or check them out at www.sleepylagoonmotel.com.

Nod for golf course plan

By Lee McCarthy

Approval has now been granted and the application approved to develop the area previously known as the Rainbow Shores Golf Course on Wyvern Road.

The development has caused major opposition from residents, particularly from Rainbow Shores who are opposed to high density housing, tree and bush clearing, and the destruction of animal habitats.

In response to the subdivision application, 43 objections were received by council.

The Wyvern Road Site Development Application was lodged by current owner Dr Allan J Bond and Associates on 27 August 2019.

Developer Richard Bond said: “Wyvern Rd development has been in progress for three years. Over this time many alternative development plans have been discussed with council.

“Given the shortage of land available for release in Rainbow Beach, councils preference is for higher density development, improved park land areas, and improved pedestrian walkway access for the area.

“A decision notice was received on 25 November, which will result in 39 house blocks, with most approved for dual occupancy.”

Opponents to the development said: “The primary concern of people against the development, which council appears to have made no attempt to address, and which has been clearly identified within at least forty (40) submissions in response to this proposal, is that the proposed new subdivision does not blend seamlessly with the existing Rainbow Shores residential estate.”

Richard Bond said, “We look forward to completing this development to a high standard to permit more families to move into Rainbow Beach.”



Plans showing lots proposed at the old Golf Course, on Wyvern Road, Rainbow Shores



The Proteus ran aground during high winds at the Coloured Sands, Rainbow Beach



Shocking surprise for the skipper and crew of the Proteus Saturday morning.
Pictures: LEE MCCARTHY

Huge relief for owners as trawler is rescued

By Lee McCarthy

In scenes reminiscent of the mighty Cherry Venture, the fishing trawler Proteus, out of Mooloolaba, ran aground this week just past middle rock at the Coloured Sands.

About a dozen trawlers had been harbouring in the bay during strong winds and according to reports the anchor slipped and

the trawler ran aground on Friday night. While the owner of the trawler declined to comment, a local businessman said, “The scallop season has just opened and it’s a mad rush to get first dibs on the scallops and they have been putting some good hours, and it slipped anchor and they were woken up when it hit the sand”. “They were right on the back bank of the

gutter, and they were very lucky to get it off as it was on the back of the moon so the tides were dropping and if they hadn’t got it off the bank then, it might have stayed till the next full moon. “It was a 1.96m high and dropping with the previous tide over two metres and a day after the full moon.” The low tide at 4am saw a couple of locals

offering a hand before the trawler was righted on Saturday morning. Reports say there is quite a lot of damage to the vessel, and it was towed back to their base on the Sunshine Coast by another boat in the fleet. When contacted, The Tin Can Bay Coastguard said they were unaware of the details of the vessel or the rescue.



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Daryl Levy brings an array of special guests on stage to perform with him on his farewell.



The faces behind the bar for 24 years, Daryl and Helen.

End of an era at Silky Oak

By Lee McCarthy

It is the end of an era for owners of the famous Silky Oak Tea Gardens in Goomboorian, with Darryl and Helen handing over the reins of their hospitality baby after 24 years of nurturing.

Their seats will be kept warm by new owners promising to honour the work already undertaken by the couple who have developed this unique venue into a tourism icon.

Purchased in March 1998, Daryl and Helen decided to keep the existing name and extend from a small tea house to a venue hosting up to 180 covers a night on weekends with live music, craft beer, pig on a spit and busloads of tourists.

Well known up and down the eastern seaboard and mentioned in the same breath as the Lion's Den in Far North Queensland, and Daly Waters in the Northern Territory this micro-brewery is now on the map thanks to hard work and an intense interest in the guest experience.

The courtyards with lush foliage, fishponds, some wildlife, and abundant outdoor seating has been the setting for birthdays golden anniversaries, proposals, and special occasions for decades.

Inside the corrugated iron 'shed', with heavy timber tables, open fireplace and by-gone relics adorning the walls you are transported to a time of easy friendships, simple meals, and cold beer.

There was no kitchen when the couple arrived, and their predecessors used to bring in a lot of the food for the regular busloads of tourists who booked into the venue three nights a week on their way north.

They quickly realised they needed to cook the food onsite and offer authentic Aussie meals to their often-international guests to be sustainable.

Daryl said: "We couldn't keep doing that, so we built an outdoor spit where we cooked roast meats and vegetables and served from a bain-marie and then I learnt to make damper which became so popular with the locals too."

While the regular bus groups were a grateful addition to their clientele numbers, they recall the day they decided they had to give up this important asset to their business and change the business model.

"It was when we were hosting a fancy dress Christmas party for a local business with four Elvis Presley's and a bit of pretty bad taste, we realised from the look of shock from the international tourists sharing the BBQ, that combining the two groups was not going to work," Daryl said.

"I learnt to cook scones on the BBQ which were popular with everyone and then after about six months we built the kitchen which only had a microwave in it."

"It was the original telephone exchange building run by Norm Kay, and then Patroni's had the shop and then the Edwards took over with Camilla serving Indian takeaway and then Rod and Janine Fuller started the tea gardens."



Daryl and Helen are sad to be leaving their labour of love after 24 years and thousands of hours tending the gardens of this unique venue.

Daryl said his parents had originally looked to buy the property years before and changed their mind, so it was always on his radar when they were running the Commercial Hotel in Gympie.

Daryl said when they started, they decided when it was time to put beer on tap it would be selling their own craft beer, so they launched the micro-brewery five years ago.

With six taps, one with alcoholic cider, they said people would meet people on the road up north and say, 'you must drop into Silky Oak Tea Gardens and try beer number three.'

"It works for a place like this" Daryl said, "and each tap has its own qualities. Often you can't drink more than two craft beers, but with this different, and we had a range from 3.5 per cent alcohol to 4.5 percent and we averaged six kegs a week."

"We had organised a billboard announcing craft beer, so I had two weeks to get it all working including a whole reticulated system and we finished kegging the day the sign went up."

Their first beer customer was John Edwards who used to come in for a Toohey's Old, and he tried the Working Man's Gold and switched brands that day with Helen saying she was nervous for him at the time as it was a big invest-

ment but lots of things aligned, and it worked.

"We started with lots of stew and damper nights once and people came from Hervey Bay and New South Wales for the food and the music."

"Music was a big part of my life and at one stage we held live music Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights with open mic nights on Friday and Saturday."

Our Sunday music was live outside in the courtyard and the rest of the entertainment was in the shed.

"The biggest crowd was probably 200 for John and Barbs Golden Wedding Anniversary but we would often knock back 200 people on Mother's Day." When we opened for Christmas Day, we would have to knock back 160-170 people with our semi set menu and three courses. We only opened Christmas Day if the staff wanted to work."

They said they always tried to employ locals and most stayed for five to ten years, and it was a big asset to the community as one of the only businesses in the Kia Ora and Goomboorian area for casual work.

With a tear, they said they are selling because after thirty years in hospitality they don't have the stamina left to run the venue.

"What these guys (buyers) are proposing is exciting. It is family time for us. We are staying local and want to stay around people we know."

"We like to think of this place as an oasis of food and music where people have been happy to come on their own for a drink and a feed."

"We are sad to be going but with the law of averages saying life is 'three score and ten', we will have a little chance to squeeze in some travel and a little driving around."

"It's been seven days a week for us for thirty years and we have lived and worked together for all that time, and we couldn't do it without each other."

Daryl said: "It's the closest to royalty I've felt lately with everyone coming to say goodbye and people coming to acknowledge us and we realise people do respect us."

The big takeaway is the respect and gratitude by both the sellers and the buyers in this transaction and with tears in their eyes, they say, "I like to think that there has been that personal service and as much as I joke about being Basil Fawlty, we are so grateful for the support and appreciation of our dream and the repeated patronage."

More, page 15.

Fond farewell for Heather

By Lee Mccarthy

Rainbow Beach farewelled another long-time local and stalwart of the community last month when Heather Greenbury moved to Brisbane to live with her daughter Julie.

Heather and husband Stan moved to Rainbow Beach 38 years ago after buying land in Rumbalara Avenue at the auction in 1978.

Originally from Jandowae, they moved to Bundaberg where Stan was a service manager and after building, he started work for Madill's running the panel shop.

"We went for a trip up to Atherton and when we came back, we met up with friends who thought we should come down to the coast," Heather said.

"The Bellards were our neighbours in Bundaberg, and Laurie worked in Rainbow during the sand mining, and suggested we should get a piece of land in Rainbow Beach.

"So, we came here, built a house and he travelled for 14 years to Gympie each day for work.

"After Stan had a heart attack in late 1996, he felt it was time to give up work and do more fishing."

Heather loved living in Rainbow and had never really worked for anyone before moving here and said it was good fun getting jobs.

Her first job was in a clothing shop in Rainbow Beach for Eric and Anita Devereaux in a shop in the main street with two parts - one part selling clothing and the other was Eric's shop selling little motor parts.

"Then I worked for Ted and Val Albion in the arcade where Brents is now, and Sam and Maureen in their shop and I also worked for Ruth who would pick me up at 5am and I would work until 11am each day."

"The men would be waiting to get hamburgers so they could go fishing and we had to have hot plates on and stuff ready for them."

"I started doing a bit of sewing in Bundaberg and Jandowae but it was busy with five children, but I really got into it in Rainbow and it was fun. I felt I wanted to pay them as it gave me something to do."

Heather and Stan were married for 54 years, had five children John, Robert (dec. 1997), Kaye, Julie and Michael (dec. 1918) and Stan passed away in 2012

"It will be 10 years on 7 February."

"I enjoyed the church and the most we ever went to church was in Rainbow because it was so friendly and different and we all shared the one church."

"The send-off reminded me of all the people we went to church with, it was ecumenical."

"We built the Catholic Church, about 13 years ago as we needed to build, or we would have lost the land. When the council was cutting up the blocks and deciding where the schools would be and police and ambulance, they also gave the churches some land."

"When Stan stopped work we fished every day and because we were friends of Gordon and June Elmer we used to go over to Fraser a lot when the seasons were best."

"Sometimes we would go over in the morning for a couple of hours and get enough fish for the day and come home."

"We loved fishing for Tailor as they put up a good fight and Stan was very good at casting and so he would be able to catch more. I would only fish for whiting, flathead, dart, and fish that would swim in close to shore."

Heather said she just loved the people in the town and said prior to that she was a bit private and kept to herself and didn't mix much and only started to mix when she moved to Bundaberg but said she made a lot of friends in Rainbow.

"It was sad to leave but it was getting to the stage where there were so many people my age leaving town, and I had to leave partly because I was going to need help... and I certainly need it now."

"I didn't know how to do online banking and so my grandson has been teaching me. I banked and paid all my bills at the post office and then I had to learn to live a different life."

"Raising children in Rainbow was good and it was an open place with very few buildings and the three mining houses were still here, and Stan certainly like having all the fishing."

After Stan finished full time work in 1996,



Heather Greenbury cutting her farewell cake surrounded by friends and home made cakes and sandwiches.



A big group of friends gathered to wish Heather Greenbury all the best

he started making jewellery as a hobby and learnt to cut stones and fix jewellery and Heather said he charged very little, but he loved it."

"We did a lot of travelling by caravan around Australia and we went all around to Perth but not much further north and came across to Kalgoorlie and then we crisscrossed the land."

"We loved it and would go for 6-7 weeks at a time, twice a year and Stan said if we had to go any longer it would be who would kill who."

Cherie Mason said: "She will be missed as

she was always the one in all our closets as she was such a brilliant seamstress."

"She was a very caring woman caring for the sick people in town, she always made time to care for them."

"She was very involved in the Catholic Church as far as donations, cleaning and always there to put everything out for mass on Sundays."

"I have already started missing her and although her sewing got less and less over the last few years she was always prepared to do up hems for everyone.

I just hope she is well, and she will be missed.

Sam and Maureen Mitchell said: "She was a great help to us, and wonderful in our shop over the last thirty five years. We miss her very much."

Ruth Modin said: "How we are going to miss our little girl with the needle in her hand. Always stitching up things for everybody. If we needed anything done we would always give it to Heather."

Heather sends much love to everyone in Rainbow, and says she "misses them all, and it was the best part of my life absolutely."

On The Bite

Tin Can Bay



Inskip Giant Trevally that ate a pike onboard Great Sandy Start Sports Fishing.

Trevally, crabs and cod

By Chris Rippon

Happy New Year to everyone! Here's hoping we start to see some normality resume in 2022.

She sure has been a wet and windy start to the year so far that's for sure! But the rain is always welcome on the land and sea. Boy, didn't the creeks get a good flushing out and that certainly was what some of them needed. Saying that, I do feel for anyone that was affected by the recent floods. I hope things have gotten back to some form of normal for all that were impacted.

So what has been going on the last few weeks in and around the area...?

Well, those that have braved the wild weather and have been out crabbing around the lead up to the moon have been rewarded. The flats around the power lines have been producing nice numbers and so have some of the smaller creeks up the strait. Fresh bait and a good soaking should see you bag a feed.

Before the rain, a few of our younger fishos had been getting some quality toga and sooties in the Mary River, fishing in their kayaks up in the freshwater. Young gun Aiden Whiteman even managed to land an albino saratoga out of there in early December, what a crazy looking fish!! I've not fished out of a yak much, but it is something I'm keen to have a go at. Our very own Mary River and kayak expert Mar-

quis AKA "Chappo" has promised to take me in a couple of weeks when the water clears up a bit. Chappo will be using spin gear while I'll be tossing flies on a 4wt and 6wt. To say I'm keen is an understatement, not sure how the back is going to like it though...Stay tune for that report.

Up the creeks the jacks have been keeping fishos hooked up. We have seen a number of the tagged fish from our Tag a Jack competition be recaptured, with most being recorded and released again which is good to see. Cod, both black spot and gold spot have also been around in good numbers and have not been bothered by the fresh water in the system. Good catches of javelin fish have also been re-

ported. Lightly weighted prawns are proving deadly for a feed of grunter.

Surprisingly, a good number of fishos have been reporting decent catches of squid. While not giants, there have been plenty around. Using smaller jig in 1.5 and 1.8 sizes have been working best. They go pretty good on the plate, but also make awesome live baits! Snell a couple of 5/0 or 6/0 octopus hooks together and send them back down on a lightly weighted rig and hold on. Along with the squid there have also been some nice catches of diver whiting, all averaging 20/25cm. Again, they make great baits and if you can be bothered, they make pretty good fish and chips also.

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Aiden Whiteman with a beautiful albino Saratoga.



Prostaffer Neilo Moy with a nice red from a recent trip.

Even with the dirty water, we have been seeing the GT's and queenies around in good numbers up around Inskip and The Bluff. If you're chasing one of these string pullers, live pike have been working a treat! Floated back in the current, unweighted, seems to be the trick. There have also been a few good GT's hunting up the creeks and the flats around Ida Island. If it's a big bow wave moving quickly on the flats around here, it's normally one of two things, a spooked dugon or a GT on the hunt.

Offshore has been a little quiet the past few weeks mainly due to the run of windy and wild weather we have been having. So on those bad weather weeks it pays to get those maintenance jobs done and out the way. This could be changing the bearing on the trailer, polishing the glass work, checking over all the rollers on the trailer, making sure your batteries are in good health and checking the terminals are clean and the bolts are tight, or pulling the

whole floor up and replacing all the old hoses and skin fitting that have been there for 11 years, like I have just done! Not my favourite thing to do but now it is done, and I don't have that nagging feeling in the back of my head when I push off from the dock.

Don't forget that we, The Chandlery Bait & Tackle have you covered for all your boat and trailer maintenance needs. If you need to paint it, clean it, re-glass it, rewire it or just give the old girl a nice soapy bath we have you covered plus all your inshore and offshore fishing needs.

Well, that's it from me this week, so till next time, tight lines and get out there and enjoy our beautiful Great Sandy Strait.

Tight Lines,

Chris

The Chandlery Bait & Tackle.

Prostaffer Amber Moy with her PB trout tipping 70cm.



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Sweeping the beach for hazards so tourists and locals can enjoy the region safely

Clean sweep on the beach

By Lee McCarthy

Its something you expect to see on the beaches of Noosa or the south of France, but in all the years of swimming at the main beach at Rainbow Beach, few remember seeing the beach sweeper here.

This photo is by Georgia Emmett who was having her first swim at Rainbow Beach after the family took over the restaurant Quay

Carlo at Carlo Point and all who watched had never seen the sweeper before.

According to Rainbow Beach Surf Club President, Shane Handy, it is housed at Rainbow but rarely used.

Council were contacted for a comment but at the time of publication they had not responded.

Regardless of how often, well done to the Council for this great addition to the appearance and safety of our swimmers.



Dek Wilson found this unusual starfish at Inskip Point. If you know anything about the species please contact Dek via Instagram

Are you able to help identify this starfish?

By Lee McCarthy

Are you a bit of a marine life buff and know your starfish from your stingrays?

If so, photographer Dek Wilson would love to chat to you about this starfish he found at Inskip Point.

He is also keen to learn about the different species of Sting Rays in Tin Can Bay if you have done any research.

Contact Dek via Instagram on his account Dek Wilson or email newsdesk@gympietoday.com.au

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Darcy Jones and Theo Ellis bring the cuteness to the party.



Debbie Whittle and Seth Crossland.



Jessica, Saphira, Ryder and Jeremy Underwood.

'Thanks for good times'

It is the end of an era for owners of the famous Silky Oak Tea Gardens in Goomboorian, with Darryl and Helen handing over the reins of their hospitality baby after 24 years - and locals gathered to wish them well in their new endeavours.



Karn, Greig and Shona.



Lenny Davies, Salli England and Billy Guy.



The Divall family.



Jo, Sharyn, Kym, Monica and Rob.



Joanne, Alisha and Ray Hodgson.



John Cassells, Molly Weldon, Betty-Mai Russell and Celina Russell.



Joan Gay, Terry Goulevitch, Michelle Goulevitch, Vern Rose, Garry Ninness and Barry Muir.

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